

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. I am not a stupid person and it takes me several minutes each month to review the charges on both my local and cellular phone bills. It should not be this way. In the same way that credit card issuers were once required to simplify their explanation of finance charges, so the telephone service providers should be required explain their rates as well as taxes. When I was shopping for a cellular plan, I found it to be nearly impossible to receive from the prospective providers an accurate figure of the monthly taxes that would accrue to me if I were to use their plan. I still do not understand why the taxes vary on a monthly basis, even though my plan pricing supposedly remains the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.